(b) *Geologists of Atomic Minerals* Division have discovered during the period of 1988 to 1991 low order uranium occurrences associated with phosphatic and volcanic rocks. These are in the vicinity of Samteran and Ganjang villages in Central Mikir Hills and around Barpung village in the Northern part of Mikir Hills.

Fire at Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant, Surat

2047. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major fire broke out at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant at Surat in the month of October this year;

(b) if so, the estimated loss caused by the fire;

(c) what was the cause of the fire and whether Government have since taken any concrete steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There was a localised fire incident in September 1991 (not related to any nuclear system) at the Project.

(b) Between Rs. 70 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The fire was traced to a problem in the medium voltage switchgear of the first Unit. A Committee has been constituted by Managing Director to investigate and suggest remedial measures. On the basis of the interim report, the systems have been restored to normalcy and commissioning works are in progress. Final report of the Committee is expected by December 1991 and the recommendations will be implemented.

Use of plutonium as fuel in atomic reactors

2048. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observations of the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, made at a symposium at Bombay on February 12, 1991, that plutonium technology is the real answer to the energy crunch the country was facing following the Gulf war;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the future plan to use plutonium as fuel if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. The over dependence on foreign oil resources to meet the energy crisis in our country, has become obvious after the Gulf war. This crisis can be only solved by Nuclear Technology using our own resources. The first stage of our nuclear programme is based on Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors which will produce plutonium. This plutonium would be used in Fast Breeder Reactors for which research is being carried out at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam.

(b) and (c) Two plutonium plants have been established at BARC and Tarapur which reprocess the spent fuel from our research reactors at BARC and from power plants at Tarapur and Rajasthan. Presently third Plutonium plant is being established at Kalpakkam to process spent fuel from Madras Atomic Power Station and Fast Breeder Test Reactor at Kalpakkam. Considerable R&D work is being carried out at BARC on the fabrication of plutonium based nuclear fuels. As a first step a mixed monocarbide of uranium and plutonium has been fabricated for use in Fast

Breader Test Reactor at Kalpakkam. The research reactor PURNIMA-I which became critical in 1972 was the first Indian Reactor to use plutonium as fuel. Plutonium has been found to a highly efficient fuel for the next generation Fast Breeder Reactors which are likely to be introduced in a major way during the early part of next century.

Production of Pesticides

@2049. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of pesticides manufactured in the country by Multinational companies during 1989-90 and 1990-91, together with names of the companies and quantum of production;

(b) the quantity produced by Indian Companies during the same period; and

(c) the quantity imported during the same period together with its value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) Approximate total quantities of pesticides produced in the country duirng 1989-90 and 1990-91 are 65,800 MT and 72,000 MT. Other information/data are not available. Since a large number of units/companies will be involved, it is considered that the time and effort involved in the collection/compilation of data will noot be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Technical persons in drugs & Pharmaceutical Wing

2050 SHRIMATI RATNA KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refers to the answer to Unstarred Question 1662 in the Rajya Sabha on 12th September, 1991 and state:

(a) what is the total number of technical persons in the department concerned with Drugs and Pharmaceutical Wing;

(b) what is the qualification of each;

(c) whether it is a fact that industrial policy has been liberalised and span of price control is being reduced;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to reduce the staff in the context of new developments;

(e) whether it is fact that Government have received a number of complaints against certain technical officers;

(f) if so, what are the details of complaints received against each of those officers;

(g) when each complaint was received and what is the present position;

(h) whether it is a fact that some of the technical officers are directly and indirectly connected with the dealership and distributorship of drug companies and the interest was acquired after joining the service; and

(i) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) At present there are 8 technical persons in the Department concerned with drugs and Pharmaceuticals wing who possess the requisite qualification as required for the posts under the recruitment rules.

(c) Drug Policy 1986 alongwith DPCO 1987 is still under review.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (i) There has been a complaint against the then Asstt. Development Commissioner (Drugs) which is still under examination and the final decision is yet to be taken.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1495, transferred from the 6th December, 1991.